

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

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SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 SAM-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

IO-14 DRC-01 /149 W

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R 111352Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7766

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5339

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, UR, UK

SUBJECT: SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARD FRANCE AND THE UK

1. AT THE QUADRIPARTITE MEETING APRIL 11, FRENCH AMBASSADOR VIMONT OFFERED SOME THOUGHTS ON SOVIET REACTION TO POST-POMPIDOU SITUATION IN FRANCE. VIMONT SAID SOVIETS ARE FOLLOWING SITUATION VERY CLOSELY AND PRIVATELY SPEAK WELL OF MITTERAND. VIMONT HIMSELF IS NOT SO SURE SOVIETS ARE ANXIOUS TO SEE MITTERAND WIN PRESIDENCY. HAVING GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO OVERALL THRUST OF FRENCH POLICY IN GAULLIST ERA, THEY MAY NOT WANT A CHANGE. VIMONT DESCRIBED THEM AS UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT SITUATION.

2. VIMONT SAID THAT MITTERAND'S TRIP TO USSR, SCHEDULED FOR LATE APRIL, HAS BEEN CANCELLED, AS HAVE VISITS OF FRENCH MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND OF A FRENCH-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP GROUP.

3. COMMENT: SOVIET PRESS, THOUGH REPORTING HEAVILY ON
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FRENCH INTERNAL SCENE, HAS BEEN ALMOST SILENT ON

MITTERAND. THIS COULD OF COURSE SIMPLY MEAN THAT SOVIETS
RECOGNIZE THAT ARDENT, PUBLIC SOVIET SUPPORT FOR
MITTERAND COULD WORK TO HIS DISADVANTAGE IN THE ELECTION.
IN MY TALK APRIL 3 WITH DEPFONMIN S.P. KOZYREV, WHO IS
RESPONSIBLE FOR WESTERN EUROPE, HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT
MITTERAND'S CHANCES FOR PRESIDENCY WERE NOT AS GOOD
AS CHABAN DELAMS'. END COMMENT.

4. IN INTERESTING PARALLEL TO VIMONT COMMENTS,
BRITISH AMBASSADOR GARVEY SAID HE BELIEVED SOVIETS
ARE NOT PARTICULARLY HAPPY WITH NEW WILSON GOVERNMENT.
DESPITE PROBLEMS WITH HEATH, GARVEY SAID, AT LEAST
SOVIETS FELT THEY COULD COUNT ON HIM, WHILE WILSON'S
TENURE IS LESS CERTAIN. GRAVEY ADDED, INCIDENTALLY,
THAT AFTER MUCH DELAY A TEN-YEAR UK-USSR AGREEMENT ON
ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL, AND INDUSTRIAL
COOPERATION WILL BE SIGNED IN LONDON IN MAY. FIRST
DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER KUZMIN WILL GO TO THE
UK MAY 5 FOR THE SIGNING. (FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER
POTOLICHEV HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN SCHEDULED TO
SIGN AGREEMENT; EVIDENTALLY HIS RECENT HEART ATTACK
WILL PREVENT HIM FROM PARTICIPATING IN SIGNING
CEREMONY.)
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